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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/928,474	08/14/2001	Badri N. Krishnamurthy	6301/Consilium/DV	6441

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APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.
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EXAMINER	
STEVENSON, ANDRE C	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2812	

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/928,474	KRISHNAMURTHY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Andre' C. Stevenson	2812	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondenc address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *August 14,2001* is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:

1.☐ received.

2.☐ received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) _____ .

3.☐ received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
16)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
17)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
18)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
19)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
20)☐ Other: .

Details Action

The petition of 06/09/03 has been considered and is granted. The restriction issued on 10/01/02 is withdrawn. In addition the rejection of 04/09/03 is withdrawn. A new rejection following.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1 through 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1).

Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1), for **Claim #1**, a computer-implemented method for managing experiments relating to automated processing technology, comprising the steps of: (A) receiving an experiment order, the experiment order including at least some deviation from a base process capable of operating in an automated environment **(Column 7, lines 12 through 24, lines 44 through 52)**; (B) obtaining an approval of the experiment order; (C) translating and storing at least a portion of the experiment order into processing data suitable for implementation by said automated environment **(Column 4, lines 14 through 33, Column 6, lines 27 through 37)**; and (D) causing the experiment to be executed in conjunction with at least some portion of said base process by the automated environment, in accordance with said processing data, (Column 7, lines 56 through 59).

Considering now **Claim #2** a method of claim 1, wherein the obtaining step further includes the steps of storing data defining the experiment order **(Column 7, lines 12 through 24)**, distributing the experiment order to a plurality of users, obtaining changes to the experiment order from at least one of the users, and receiving tile approval for the experiment order from at least one user, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (Column 11, lines 20 through 52).

With respect to **Claim #3**, a method of claim 1, further comprising the step of attaching documents to the experiment request, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1), (column 10, lines 62 through 67, Column 11, lines 1 through 11).

Furthermore, **Claim #4**, a method of claim 1, further comprising the step of publishing information indicating a state change of the experiment request, responsive to a document attached to the experiment request or to a change in state of the experiment order, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (column 10, lines 62 through 67, Column 11, lines 1 through 11).

With respect to **Claim #5**, a method of claim 1, wherein the translating step further includes the step of receiving the processing data, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (Figure 9, line 2 through 28).

With respect to **Claim #6**, a method of claim 5, wherein: the experiment produces at least one test product and at least one production product; and wherein the processing data includes an indication of the base process, the changes to the base process, and a split-off of a control set; and wherein the split-off of a control set produces the at least one production product according to the base process and the changes to the base process produce the at least one test product, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1), (column 7, lines 9 through 30, lines 33 through 40, column 9, lines 38 through 45, Column 11, lines 20 through 52, column 12, lines 16 through 30).

Furthermore, **Claim #7**, a method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving and storing the results of the execution of the experiment, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (column 7, lines 9 through 30, lines 33 through 40, column 9, lines 38 through 45, Column 11, lines 20 through 52, column 12, lines 16 through 30).

Considering now **Claim #8**, a method of claim 1, wherein the automated environment produces semiconductor technology, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (column 7, lines 9 through 30, lines 33 through 40, column 9, lines 38 through 45, Column 11, lines 20 through 52, column 12, lines 16 through 30).

Considering now **Claim #9** a computer-implemented system for managing experiments relating to automated processing technology, comprising: (A) an experiment order, the experiment order including at least some deviation from a base

process capable of operating in an automated environment **(Column 7, lines 12 through 24, lines 44 through 52)**; (B) an approval of the experiment order, obtained in response to receipt of the experiment order **(Column 4, lines 14 through 33, Column 6, lines 27 through 37)**; (C) processing data suitable for implementation by said automated environment, translated from at least a portion of the experiment order; and (D) wherein said automated environment causes the experiment to be executed in conjunction with at least some portion of said base process by the automated environment, in accordance with the processing data, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (Column 7, lines 56 through 59).

With respect to **Claim #10**, a system of claim 9, wherein the approval further includes stored data defining the experiment order, a distribution of the experiment order to a plurality of users, stored changes to the experiment order from at least one of the users, and received approval for the experiment order from at least one user, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1), (column 6, lines 27 through 37, Column 10, lines 30 through 38, column 11, lines 15 through 19, Column 18, lines 60 through 64, column 21, lines 17 through 43).

Furthermore, **Claim #11**, a system of claim 9, further comprising at least one document attached to the experiment request, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (column 6, lines 27 through 37, Column 10, lines 30 through 38,

column 11, lines 15 through 19, Column 18, lines 60 through 64, column 21, lines 17 through 43).

Considering now **Claim #12** a system of claim 9, further comprising information indicating a state change of the experiment request, published responsive to a document attached to the experiment request or to 3 a change in state of the experiment order, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (Column 10, lines 62 through 67, Column 11, lines 1 through 11).

With respect to **Claim #13**, a system of claim 9, wherein the processing data is received from a user, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1), (column 6, lines 27 through 37, Column 10, lines 30 through 38, column 11, lines 15 through 19, Column 18, lines 60 through 64, column 21, lines 17 through 43).

Furthermore, **Claim #14**, a system of claim 13, wherein: the experiment produces at least one test product and at least one production product; and wherein the processing data includes an indication of the base process, the changes to the base process, and a split-off of a control set; and wherein the split-off of a control set produces the at least one production product according to the base process and the changes to the base process produce the at least one test product, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (column 7, lines 9 through 30, lines 33 through 40, column 9, lines 38 through 45, Column 11, lines 20 through 52, column 12, lines 16 through 30).

Considering now **Claim #15** a system of claim 9, wherein the results of the execution of the experiment are received and stored, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (Column 9, lines 46 through 61).

With respect to **Claim #16**, a system of claim 9, wherein the automated environment produces semiconductor technology, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1), (abstract).

Furthermore, **Claim #17**, a computer-readable medium comprising instructions being executed by a computer, the instructions including a computer-implemented method for managing experiments relating to automated processing technology, the instructions for implementing the steps of (A) receiving an experiment order, the experiment order including at least some deviation from a base process capable of operating in an automated environment **(Column 7, lines 12 through 24, lines 44 through 52)**; (B) obtaining an approval of the experiment order; (C) translating and storing at least a portion of the experiment order into processing data suitable for implementation by said automated environment **(Column 4, lines 14 through 33, Column 6, lines 27 through 37)**; and (D) causing the experiment to be executed in conjunction with at least some portion of said base process by the automated environment in accordance with the processing data, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (Column 7, lines 56 through 59).

Considering now **Claim #18** a medium of claim 17, wherein the obtaining step further includes the steps of storing data defining the experiment order, distributing the experiment order to a plurality of users, obtaining changes to the experiment order from at least one of the users, and receiving the approval for the experiment order from at least one user, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (column 6, lines 27 through 37, Column 10, lines 30 through 38, column 11, lines 15 through 19, Column 18, lines 60 through 64, column 21, lines 17 through 43).

With respect to **Claim #19**, a medium of claim 17, wherein the computer program further comprises the step of attaching documents to the experiment request, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1), (column 10, lines 62 through 67, Column 11, lines 1 through 11).

Furthermore, **Claim #20**, a medium of claim 17, wherein the computer program further comprises the step of publishing information indicating a state change of the experiment request, responsive to a document attached to the experiment request or to a change in state o f the experiment order, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (column 10, lines 62 through 67, Column 11, lines 1 through 11).

With respect to **Claim #21**, a medium of claim 17, wherein the translating step further includes the steps of receiving the processing data, is taught by Nulman (U.S.

Pat. No.6306695 B1), (Column 7, lines 12 through 24, lines 44 through 52, Column 4, lines 14 through 33, Column 6, lines 27 through 37, Column 7, lines 56 through 59).

Furthermore, **Claim #22**, a medium of claim 21, wherein: the experiment produces at least one test product and at least one production product; and wherein the processing data includes an indication of the base process, the changes to the base process, and a split-off of a control set; and wherein the split-off of a control set produces the at least one production product according to the base process and the changes to the base process produce the at least one test product, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (column 7, lines 9 through 30, Column 8, lines 15 through 33).

Considering now **Claim #23** a medium of claim 17, wherein the computer program further comprises the step of receiving and storing the results of the execution of the experiment, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (column 9, lines 28 through 61).

With respect to **Claim #24**, a medium of claim 17, wherein the automated environment produces semiconductor technology, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1), (abstract).

Furthermore, **Claim #25**, a computer-implemented method for managing experiments relating to semiconductor technology, comprising the steps of (A)

receiving an experiment order, the experiment order including at least some deviation from a base process capable of operating in an automated environment; (B) obtaining an approval of the experiment order; (C) translating and storing at least a portion of the experiment order into processing data suitable for implementation by said automated environment; and (D) causing the experiment to be executed in conjunction with at least some portion of said base process by the automated environment in accordance with the processing data; (E) wherein the obtaining step further includes the steps of storing data defining the experiment order, distributing the experiment order to a plurality of users, obtaining changes to the experiment order from at least one of the users, and receiving the approval for the experiment order from at least one user; (F) wherein the experiment produces at least one test product and at least one production product; and wherein the processing data includes an indication of the base process, the changes to the base process, and a split-off of a control set; and wherein the split-off of a control set produces the at least one production product according to the base process and the changes to the base process produce the at least one test product, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (Column 7, lines 12 through 24, lines 44 through 52, Column 4, lines 14 through 33, Column 6, lines 27 through 37, Column 7, lines 56 through 59, Column 9, lines 28 through 61).

Considering now **Claim #26** a computer-implemented system for managing experiments relating to semiconductor technology, comprising: (A) an experiment order, the experiment order including at least some deviation from a base process capable of

operating in an automated environment; (B) an approval of the experiment order, obtained in response to receipt of the experiment order; (C) processing data suitable for implementation by said automated environment, translated from at least a portion of the experiment order; (D) wherein said automated environment causes the experiment to be executed in conjunction with at least some portion of said base process by the automated environment in accordance with the processing data; (E) wherein the approval further includes stored data defining the experiment order, a distribution of the experiment order to a plurality of users, stored changes to the experiment order from at least one of the users, and received approval for the experiment order from at least one user; and (F) wherein the experiment produces at least one test. product and at least one production product; and wherein the processing data includes an indication of the base process, the changes to the base process, and a split-off of a control set; and wherein the split-off of a control set produces the at least one production product according To the base process and the changes to the base process produce the at least one test product, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (Column 7, lines 12 through 24, lines 44 through 52, Column 4, lines 14 through 33, Column 6, lines 27 through 37, Column 7, lines 56 through 59, Column 9, lines 28 through 61).

With respect to **Claim #27**, a computer-readable medium comprising instructions being executed by a computer, the instructions including a computer-implemented method for managing experiments relating to automated processing technology, the instructions for implementing the steps of (A) receiving an experiment order, the

experiment order including at least some deviation from a base process capable of operating in an automated environment; (B) obtaining an approval of the experiment order; (C) translating and storing at least a portion of the experiment order into processing data suitable for implementation by said automated environment; and (D) causing the experiment to be executed in conjunction with at least some portion of said base process by the automated environment in accordance with the processing data; (E) wherein the obtaining step further includes the steps of storing data defining the experiment order, distributing the experiment order to a plurality of users, obtaining changes to the experiment order from at least one of the users, and receiving the approval for the experiment order from at least one user; (F) wherein the experiment produces at least one test product and at least one production product; and wherin the processing data includes an indication of the base process, the changes to the base process, and a split off of the control set; and wherein the split off of a control set produces the at least one production product according to the base process and the changes to the base process produce the at least one test product, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1), (Column 7, lines 12 through 24, lines 44 through 52, Column 4, lines 14 through 33, Column 6, lines 27 through 37, Column 7, lines 56 through 59, Column 9, lines 28 through 61).

Furthermore, **Claim #28**, a computer implemented apparatus for managing experiments relating to automated processing technology, comprising; (A) means for receiving an experiment order, the experiment order including at least some deviation

from a base process capable of operating in an automated environment; (B) means of obtaining an approval of the experiment order; (C) means for translating an storing at least a portion of the experiment order into processing data suitable for implementation by said automated environment; and (D) means for causing the experiment to be executed in conjunction with a t least some portion of said base process by the automated environment, in accordance with said processing, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (Column 7, lines 12 through 24, lines 44 through 52, Column 4, lines 14 through 33, Column 6, lines 27 through 37, Column 7, lines 56 through 59, Column 9, lines 28 through 61).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre' Stevenson whose telephone number is (703) 308 6227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Niebling, can be reached on (703) 308 3325. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308 7724.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0956. Also, the proceeding numbers can be used to fax information through the Right Fax system;

- TC2800 Official Before-Final RightFAX - (703) 872-9318
- TC2800 Official After-Final RightFAX - (703) 872-9319
- TC2800 Customer Service RightFAX - (703) 872-9317

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09/04/03

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